OSTMEN OF THE WORLD.

low the Various Nations Uniform Their Letter Carriers.

An Interesting Exhibit Now at the Pan-American Exposition-May Be Moved to Washington - Loin Cloths in Japan-Other Dresses.

An attractive exhibit in the Government Building at the Pan-American Exposition, and one which may possibly be transferred to the National Museum at the conclusion of the fair, is a series of very life-like figures representing the uniforms and equipments of the various postmen of the world. The uniform of the letter carrier of this country must be said to compare rather unfavorably, in point of elegance and neatness, with those used in other countries. In simplicity of attire the postman of Japan must be given first place, his uniform consisting of a loin cloth of very scanty dimensions and nothing more. It is true that this postman is only employed in remote districts of the country. The mail pouches are hung on either end of a bamboo pole that is carried over the shoulder ...

The native runner of Natal is another striking example of the universality of the great postal system of the world, that marvel of human ingenuity which unites the most distant individuals, so that the traveler need rarely feel entirely separated from his home and kindred. The Natal runners are interest. ing from their attire, their headdress of leaves for instance, and their methods of work. When they perform short journeys they run at a rate of about four miles an hour. The salary paid is \$5 per month, and an allowance is made for rations. The clothing of the letter carrier of Natal, in its entirety, consists of a military great-coat and cape which are supplied by the Government of the Colony. Beneath the overcoat is worn a garment called the mucetu and a raw hide sandal is sometimes laced to the foot.

The postmen of Barbados, although they are not privileged to sport the picturesque shirt waist of our own letter carriers, are allowed to wear two uni forms-one for the hot weather in July, August, and September, and the other for cooler months. The former is made of unbleached botton drill, with red facings, and the latter of blue serge.

On the southern slopes of the Caucasus, the dweller who awaits a letter from a friend on the plains sends his dog down in charge of a tax collector or peddler, with instructions that the message shall be placed in a little pouch in the ring of the dog's collar. The intelligent quadruped is then turned loose and trots back home with the

One of the strangest methods of carrying the mails is in vogue among the natives of Coromandel. It is said that waterproof bags are there deposited in a species of catamaran-boat which is so small that the postman has to sit astride it like a floating log. Sometimes these postmen are washed off into the water, , where numerous sharks form an element of consideration, but in most cases the passage is made in safety, and the letters are received punctually.

Most of the employes of the Postoffice Department of British Guiana are negroes or of negro descent, although the administrative staff are Europeans or of European descent.

The Salvador postman is also a swarthy gentleman, with a strong dash of African blood in his veins. In the capital of Salvador there are seventeen letter carriers of this type, two of whom are exclusively employed in the delivery of registered letters for which they receive \$40 a month. There are three monthly mails to Europe, and ntry, all of which are carried by the Pacific Steamship Company. A very primitive method of carrying

the mails is in vogue in Korea, a small but exceedingly conservative nation. The ox-cart is here employed in the postal service, and it is anything but a rapid means of transit. In China, which is also fairly unprogressive, there is more of an attempt at speed. There are two methods of carrying the mails there. The letters of the mandarins are delivered by special couriers, frequently accompanied by military escort. Public letters are carried by two private companies. The first company, called the "Local," has the cities for its seat of operations; and the other called the "General," delivers letters to all parts of the empire, maintaining communication with the far-off frontier towns.

In Holland, the extent of the mail service routes is over 30,000 miles. The uniform of the postmen is semi-military in character; the men themselves are said to be a remarkably handsome body.

In Austria, the Government gives to the postmen every year one tunic, one pair of cloth trousers, one pair of linen trousers, one waistcoat, and a cap, while every second year a coat and blouse are given. Previous military service is considered as postal service. and in time of war each year counts double.

The Roman postman has to work eight hours a day for about \$15 a month. The uniform is not as neat as that of most other European countries.

The Turkish postal system has, of late, been reformed with much benefit to the people of that nation. It used to be a frequent occurrence for letters to be irrecoverably lost. The pay of the Turkish letter carriers is so low as to oblige them to combine with their official profession that of mendicant,

and ask publicly for "backsheesh."

The Swedish postman, at least that specimen represented in the exhibit, is an old gentleman of elegant and commanding appearance, and the neat black bag which he carries under his arm is jost sight of in the majestic tout-ensemble. In point of appearance this letter carrier undoubtedly takes first place.

In Switzerland, candidates for the postal service are not required to pass a formal examination. The vacancies are advertised, and the man selected must be able to read and write the language of that part of the country which he is to serve; to know simple arithmetic, and, above all, to be a strong man and a good walker. The uniform in winter consists of a blue coat and light grey trousers. The summer uniform is a grey blouse with the same

The uniform of the postman of Norway is dark green in color, though, it Is said, many of the men want it changed to blue. The facings of the coat are | London Mail.

of silver braid, and there is a small ockade of the Norwegian colors or the band round the cap.

The climate of Finland is uniformly severe, and the postmen dress warmly The costume is picturesque. Long boots of thick leather and a long coat, crowned by a round cap, make up the details. Many of the nostmen are linguists, since they talk Finnish, Swedish, and Russian.

The Danish postman wears a rathe elegant uniform of dark cloth and rich braid. The service is said to be excellent in every respect. The uniform of the Bulgarian postman is of dark blue cloth with gilt buttons, and green collar and cuffs. The French postman also dresses in dark blue, with very narrow red facings.

When this exhibit is mounted permanently, it is to be hoped in this city. It will, it is felt assured, prove of general interest.

WHERE ACROBATS PRACTICE. A Famous Resort in London for Strange Specialists.

There are very few Londoners know that down in the unsavory New Cut, on the right hand side as one goes toward Waterloo Road, is a little, grimy windowed coffee shop.

Above the door is the legend—familiar

enough hereabouts—"Beds sixpence a night." It is obviously a poor man's "ho-Yet any weekday, from 10 or 11 in the morning up till 1 or 2 in the afternoon, the curious in such matters may observe passing in and out a never ceasing stream of well-dressed and well-set up men, clean shaven, spruce and alert the very last sort of individuals one would magine to patronize for its board or lodgng an establishment such as this.

Nor, as a matter of fact, do they do so

Follow any one of them, and you will find that he passed straight through the lite shop, down a dark passage, to emerge eventually into a lofty hall, round the wall of which are rarged all kinds of symnastic apparatus. And on the floor, suspended from rings

midair, dangling from trapezes near

the ceiling, are men-and women-tum-bling, flying, swinging, walking on their hands, standing on their heads, throwing omersaults by the score, and twisting themselves into every conceivable contortion to which the human form divine is spable of lending itself. For this is a professional" acrobats' practice room, and its name and fame are known from end to end of Europe, and, indeed, all ove the world wherever gymnasts and such like folk travel, and they travel far. They are largely foreigners, these people. Lis-ten to the babel of tongues. Regard the various types. You little dark-eyed lassie who is turning "catherine wheels" with such zest, is a Neapolitan and a debutante, apprenticed to a troupe by parents who were too poor to keep her. Like it? Ask her. She knows today, poor child, for almost the first time in her hitherto sad young life, what it means to go to bed unhungry.

Here is an Austrian laddy training under Mr. Harry Ara. He has only been a few months with the troupe, and already (he tells you proudly) he can turn forty flip-flaps" without pausing for breath.

A child woman, with black elf locks and a Jewish cast of countenance, is solemnly engaged in throwing her arms and legs about and around, now like the sails of a windmill, anon like the tentacles of some strange species of octopus. She is an Armenian, the sole survivor of her viliage, at the time it was raided by a band of

Kurds early last winter. Of the inanimate things that are ranged round the walls, the most are not what they seem. A billiard table, for instance, which looks as solid as one of the best 80 guinea match ones, proves on investiga-tion to be fitted with a dummy "bed" of green baize covered canvas, upon which the performer can fall headforemest, if need be, from almost any height without

hurting himself. Originally, one of the habitues of the place informs us, this curiosly situated practice hall was a "penny gaff" of the old approved type. On the little stage at the back, blodd and thunder meledramas were presented night after night to ad-

miring audiences of boys and gir's, This was forty years and more ago, but by degrees the patrons fell away, and, at the same time awkward enquiries began to b. instituted concerning its license. So "old Mother Potter," the proprietress, who superintended the production of "dramas" galore, aye, and played them, too, on occasion-found, like Othello, her occupation gone, and incontiiently died.

For the better part of a couple of decades afterward the bare, gaunt hall, masked by the grimy coffee-shop, remained closed and well-nigh forgotten until one day an enterprising "pro." acrobat in search of a place wherein to practice discovered it, and made it know to his brother and sister "pros.;" since when it has taken on a new lease of life and prosperity. Every day acrobats pass in out, bent upon learning new tricks which they have conceived, but which they are not as yet perfect in. The little oom is in fact a training college, and it never lacks a full complement of adult and learners. No public audience ees the tricks before they are presented n the stage, but critics in the shape of rother "pros." are plentiful.-London Mail.

MILITARY AIDS TO SCIENCE

British and German Officers Send

Home Valuable Specimens. Lieut, Boyd Alexander, Rifle Brigade, who is well known at South Ken Museum for his studies of birds in Africa, has just returned from the West Coast with what is believed to be the finest colection over obtained on active service Over a thousand specimens of West African birds, killed by himself and his native collector during the campaten Ashanti, were brought back by Lieutenant Alexander last week.

"This is the biggest collection of birds ver brought out of Africa at one time," he said to a "Daily Mail" representative yesterday afternoon. "I have been col-lecting in Africa now for nine or ten years. One has to be a specialist nowa-

"The collection is at present at South Kensington Natural History Museum, where I am busy comparing the specimens I have obtained with the nearest prototypes there.

"It is a pity that the Government does not insist on officers in out-of-the-way parts of the world collecting birds and other things. The German officers do so already. The Colonial Office at Berlin obliges all its officers to collect natural history specimens whether they like it or not, and though their work in many cases is rough-and-ready, it is better than nothing.

"We know very little about the birds in the great bend of the Niger and Hausaland, and absolutely nothing of those i the regions around Lake Chad and Darfur. There is not a doubt that when tion it will be found that one great zo ographical region exists from Northeas ern Africa right across to the west coast. When I have finished examining my col lection of birds they may throw consid-

erable light on the subject. "Marching with the relief force to Kuwhere he formed the nucleus of the collection. As the country became more settled he gradually worked his way up to Kumasi, making collections at each station on the lines of communication."-

TO IDENTIFY CRIMINALS.

Methods Proposed by the National Bureau to Be Located Here.

Many Valuable Features to Be Added to the Bertillion System-How Thieves Are Traced-The Ear the Only Infallable Evidence

The removal of the National Bureau of Criminal Identification from Chicago to this city, as at present contem plated, makes the subject of criminal identification a pertinent one in the consideration of the police authorities Should the bureau become a Government institution, and it is said that a bill to have it made so will be brought before the next Congress, the question of arranging the immense number of photographs and descriptions of criminals so as to render anyone available after a brief search, will become of par-

amount importance.

The work of the bureau under its present organization is limited in scope. only extending to those cities which contribute toward its maintenance. In the event of its being made a Government institution, every officer of the law in the country having need of it could obtain the picture, record, and description of any person that had ever been convicted in any part of the country, and thus be able to trace out their methods and deal with them to the limit of the law. This plan efficiently carried out, would place this country on a par with France in regard to police regulations.

The Bertillon system, which would undoubtedly be the one employed in the bureau in the case of its becoming national in scope, is perhaps the most wonderful method of classification and arrangement, as well as of identification, ever devised. In the city of Paris. for example, where the system is to be found in its perfection, the collection of descriptions numbers over three hunired thousand. Yet this immense colection has been so compiled and classified that even where the name is unknowr any given decription can be found in two minutes,

Although the Bertillon system of neasurements is now in general use in the larger cities of this country, it is to be noted that most of the descriptions of criminals in the "Rogues' Gallery" in this city, for instance, were obtained in a general sort of manner, and, for purposes of identification, are said to be practically valueless. This is owing to the maccuracy with which the public ses descriptive terms. The ordinary observer, in seeking to convey an idea of another's personal appearance, does not try to define, but to depict. For instance, people speak of black eyes, while, in fact, black eyes are an impossibility. The pupil of the eye is always black, but the iris never, and even the eye of a negro or an Arab is only of a dark maroon color.

Of late years the identification of criminals has received more attention from the authorities in every country question as to the most distinguishing characteristic or characteristics by which to establish identity. Dr. Edward Schaeffer, the eminent microscopist, of this city, has a theory which he has had several occasions of putting to the test, once very recently. Dr. Schaeffer believes that the imprint of a person's hand, so made that the minute ridges of flesh are plainly to be discerned, is a sufficient mark of identity when it can be compared with another print of the hand. In the case adverted print of a bloody hand upon a window sill was made by the victim or his slayer. Owing to the developments of the case, however, the test was not employed further than to indicate the sex of the person who had made the hand print, and to show, from prints taken from the hand of the victim after death. that it could not have been made by him. It has been urged that this meth

od of taking hand prints be adopted by

tification. The formation of the ear is another characteristic which, it is said, serves as a certain mark of identification. The similarity of two photographs may often be confusing to the uninitiated observer, and may even cause an expert to hesitate when both happen to be taken in a full-face pose. This hesitation, say the advocates of the ear theory, is impossible where a profile portrait is adjoined, for, even should there be a resemblance between the distinct difference in the formation of the ear, supposing the originals are different people. Nature makes no two blades of grass alike, and there are no two ears in the world which are absolutely identical, as there is even a marked difference to the experienced observer, between the right and left ears of the same person.

Owing to the great variety of its curves and hollows, the ear, like the hand, would seem to recommend itself as a mark of identity, and it has the advantage over the latter of being much more apparent, not having to depend upon delicate prints made under certain conditions or on a minute examination. Moreover, the ear seems to undergo no modification of form from the time of birth until death. In the various photographs of a professional criminal, taken at considerable intervals throughout his life, the expression of his face, the form of his mouth, the arrangement and abundance of his hair, all change, but his ear remains unalterable, and the identity of its formation in different photographs is sufficient to

affirm the identity of the individual. It is said that the lack of uniformity in judicial photographs, owing to the great variety of pose affected by authorities in different cities, renders an accurate comparison much more difficult, and of recent years the importance of having the photographs uniform in size and pose has been officially insisted upon in many quarters,

The French, who have the most perfectly organized police service in the world, take both a full face and a profile view, and their example has been followed by several Governments. The Chicago police department has adopted the French system intoto, and has now the most elaborate bureau of identification on this continent. In searching through large collections of photographs, the eye, it is said, soon becomes

of course, physically impossible to com-pare any given photograph with each of the portraits in a collection of many thousand, and from the necessity for an intelligent classification, the French or Bertillon system was adopted. This system was designed by its inventor as a means for theoretically studying the criminal types, but its use, so far, has

een as a practical method of identifi-

cation.

Sometimes, though rarely, criminals esemble each other so closely as to of El Dorado county, at the base of the cause considerable trouble to the police, There were two pickpockets who were photographed together in the gallery of a Western city, who were so much alike as to have been the source of much per-However, to the expert the plexity. dissimilarity of the forehead, the angle of the nose, and the formation of the ear were sufficient distinguishing marks

to denote the separate individuals. VACCINATION IN LONDON.

Laws Are Laxly Enforced in file British Capital.

People who fear smailpox, and put their

aith in vaccination, had best no Fast London. The conscientious objector does not wax fat and kick much more vigorously there than in other places, but the reasons is that he has not found it necessary to proclaim his conscience and obtain his certificate. Without any certificate at all, he has been practically safe from persecution in most of the East London districts for many years. The reason, of course, is that local opinion, as expressed by the various boards of guardians, is not in favor of vaccination and the energetic vaccipation officer anxous to perform the statutory duties of his office, has found his path beset with thorns. Two years ago, in the Stepney Union, when the vaccination officer inftiated prosecutions, the guardians refused to allow him his expenses. In St. George's in-the-East another energetic officer met with a somewhat similar fate.

The last report of the medical officer for Limehouse, while stating that "no case of smallpox has occurred in the district durber of children that are vaccinated in the district." In fact, the law which enjoins vaccination unless the parents' objection be conscientious appears to have become a dead letter. In the few cases when prosecutions have been pressed and fines have been imposed, their collection has not been enforced. The reason for thisappears to be that in some cases the offenders would have chosen prison before payment, and no wise vaccination offi-cer makes martyrs; while in other cases the delinquents were not worth powder

Shoreditch was slumbering unvaccinated as peacefully as the union further east until last week, when its vaccination officer, relying on the new act, which makes him responsible for prosecution, and enables him to dispense with the conent of the guardians who appoint him brought a good many cases before the Worship Street Police Court. The Shore-ditch guardians, a considerable majority of whom are opposed to compulsory vac-cination, objected, but are and must apparently remain unable to-give force to

According to the local branch of the Anti-Vaccination League, no such prose-cutions have been known in Shoreditch from the authorities in every country for years past, and everything has been than any other branch of the police service. As a consequence, many methods unions till these cases were sudenly sprung upon it last week. There is conyond all reach of doubt, the question of siderable local indignation centring personal identity. This involves the chiefly around the grievance that an officer appointed and paid by the Board of Guardians should pursue a policy which that board does not approve. But, whatbe, it does not appear that, with the law in its present state, the vaccination officer has any choice. He is legally responsible for seeing the

aw obeyed, and to attack him for attempting to do his duty seems somewhat childish. Many people may think that, while any man who professes a conscientious objection can obtain exemption from trouble to object deserve no great pity. case of unwritten history such as this, to, in which Dr. Schaeffer had occasion

It is urged by the local branch of the
to a certain extent to employ this test. Anti-Vaccination League that all such

authentic, which purport to contain the
punishments meted out to prehistoric prosecutions are a farce, because the fines | tens biet. are not enforced. Apparently it is true that fines have seldom been levied in the all three are founded on the same district hitherto, but that is a mere question of policy, and depends upon the judgment of the vaccination officer. The mere trouble of the prosecution may well act in some cases as a deterrent. There is considerable local interest in the question, vaccination officer could hardly have done in a saloon, probably a tent or hut, when otherwise, consistently with his duty; one of the party "went broke." That in second, a large body of local opinion is second, a large body of local opinion is strongly against his action. There is, it what followed was enough out of the comthe Government, in addition to anthrois said, some probability of steps being mon to affect the little camp to no slight pometry, as a means of criminal identaken to enforce the fines recently imposed at Worship Street, with a view to as-certaining what effect such a policy would have upon the unvaccinated population of the district.-London Telegraph.

RUBIES MOST VALUABLE. Regarded by Jewelers as More Precious Than Diamonds.

"There is a popular impression that the | was not to be refused, and he resp diamond is the most precious jewel on the face of the earth," said a New Orleans jeweler yesterday, who makes a specialty of valuables of this kind, "but two profiles, there will invariably be a This erroneous view of the matter is probably due to the great popularity of the diamond with the vost majority of the men and women of the world who are convened, and flogging and exile were fond of jewels. The diamond glitters, and this may in some way account for the popular hold which the jewel has on the public mind. The belief that the diamond

example of Great Britain in placing a neavy tax on the jewels." Of course, if densome because of exorbitant revenue charges, men and women who have a striking fondness for sparkling decorations may decide that some of the other precious stones will answer their ambition in this respect. But this is beside the subject. Diamonds are valuable in the extreme, and they are always good property. But in my business, we have ome to understand that there are other come to understand that there are other things equally as valuable, and sometimes they are even more valuable. Take, for instance, the specially fine ruby. I have seen many rubles that were worth a great deal more than diamonds, and most any man in my line of business will tell you the same thing. However, if you should go into a jewelry store and ask for a testing of the precious stones according to the rated value the chances are that aine men out of ten would start with diamonds.

nonds.
Then would follow rubles, pearls, say

fatigued and refuses to notice any but the most striking pecultirities. It is, THE CITY OF HANGTOWN

How a California Community Secured a Strange Name.

Mining Residents of Pincerville Strung Up the Bad Men Who Made Trouble-Many Storles About the Appropriate Title Given the Camp.

Hidden in the fir-clad hills and ravines

first grand rise of the Sierras, there is a little town. Round-topped hills wall it securely in, as if protecting it from the world, and up over them and across the dark green sea of tree tops, through the clear mountain air, the whitecrested Sierras raise their rugged heights. Placerville, they call it. Erstwhile a mining camp, and formerly of great importance as a town, it now leads the quiet existence of the governmental seat of a mountain county, which has been left a trifle to one side by the exhaustion of its gold deposits and the demands of commercial life. It gives no indications to-day of the prominence which once was its own, and of the "strenuous life" it led once as a mining camp. There is now little about it that would attract the attention of the uninformed stranger to its previous history or suggest to him any-thing of the days when the place was the third largest town in California. It is charmingly picturesque, with its irreg-ular streets following the contour of the land and lending it a quiet air of un-conventionality and convenience that is not soon forgotten.

as "Placerville," there are few people in this country today who have not at least heard of it as "Hangtown." Certainly there are none in California to whom the these, however, who without previous information would recognize in the Placer-ville of today the Hangtown of fifty years ago. To most people the mention of the name brings memories, either personal or otherwise, of the most romantic period of Western history, when the men of the East sought their fortunes in "El Dorado of '49." There was a time when Placer-ville was a mass of board and cloth houses, and when "Emigrant Ravine Road" was constantly filled with the teams of incoming pioneers and freighters; when "Shirt-tail Bend," now deserted, was a busy mining centre; when gold could be easily taken from Mother Earth and fortunes made in a day were often squandered in an hour; when Judge Lynch's court was the highest legal tribunal, and before that bar swift and sure justice was meted out to public offenders. To those who saw this flourishing camp in its early days, wild and careless of its future, there will always come a memory, when Placerville is mentioned. times when money was plenty, the excite ment of the gold fever was raging, and

old "Hangtown" was in its prime.

The name is probably one of the mos famous of all those words which, coined and applied as nicknames, have become an interesting part of our Western geog-raphy. It has been used for effect on been used for effect on "tenderfeet," and would-be portrayers of Western life have made it part of their principal stock in trade as sounding typically and lawlessly Western. It is perhaps cruel to disillusionize those people who have a more or less hazy idea of old Hangtown as the scene of dally murders and bloodshed and all other immoralitie which are attributed to the ultra mining The place was, of course, not model in those respects, and came by its name honestly enough. But it was no worse than any other camp of any im-portance at that time. Perhaps the repu-tation which its name gained for it had something to do with the fact that no extraordinary number of crimes occurred there. Nevertheless the fact remain that a few were committed early in the history of the town, and that these and others were speedily punished, and to this fact is attributed the origin of the most unique, as well as one of the most fa-mous, of our Western names.

There have been, of course, many thec town," as is perfectly natural in the sound reasonable, and it is probable that The camp originated in 1848 as "Old Dry Diggings," and by this name it until January, 1849, and, according to the first story, in that month the event occurred which informally christened the place "Hangtown." One night three men were playing poke

degree. The proprietor of the place had fallen asleep in the room, and as it was known that he had some dust in his por session, it courred to the gentleman who had lost the, a glorious opportunity of re-plenishing purses was at hand. Needless to say, the proposition found favor in the eyes of the others. The sleeper was aroused and requested over a gunbarrel to "ante!" A favor asked in such terms with alacrity. The accompanying threats of sure death, if he "blew," were disregarded by the victim, however, and he "blew" as promptly as he had "anted" the previous evening. The camp was wild and wanted justice done. No time was wasted, and the robbers were arrested bechosen as a sentence in keeping with the enormity of the crime.

The promptness with which the whole procedure was gone through with might s the greatest thing going in the jewel have served as a warning to wiser men. line is the most natural thing in the But this was not the case with our gamworld, when we come to analyze the bler-robbers. Next day they appeared in causes. In the first place, the jeweler has a great deal to do with it. There is a big profit in diamonds. Din- arrogance and insolence was too much to monds are never a drag on the market, and they never will be unless all the countries of the world follow the recent dignant miners, hastily convened, the decision to hang the men was made. This sentence was carried out as promptly as the ownership of diamonds is made bur- the previous one. The crowd marched down the street to a big oak tree, and there, with a dozen husky pioneers at the long end of each rope the bad men met their fate. Thereafter the miners said "Hangtown" when they referred to the little Sierra camp. Then there is another story which dif-

fers from the preceding one in the romantic detail that the crime is laid at the door of an organized gang of desperadoes, several of which infested the country The bands are said to have been of th genuine dime novel variety, with grips signs, and passwords. It is quite possible that the robbers were members of such in organization as that known as the 'Owls." The story goes that one night they raided a trading post belonging to a Frenchman, in Log Cabin Ravine. He "Then would follow rubles, pearls, sapplires and the long list of other things precious in the jewel line. It is a qua marines, garnets, amethysis, bloodstones, agates, emeralds and many others. But this business of heading the list with diamonds would not change the fact that the ruby is regarded as more valuable at times than the diamond. The jeweler knows it, and while the fact may not have impressed liself on the general public, it is a fact just the same, and the trade recognizes it. Yet the average purchaser of jeweles would probably feel that he was looked upon as a greenhear if a jeweler tried to persuade him that a ruby was more precious than a diamond, no matter what differences might exist in the articles appecially offered over the counter."—New Orleans Times Democrat. was known to have dust in considerable

arrested for highway robbery on the old Georgetown Road, and that hanging was not contemplated until an officer arrived from toward San Francisco and identified the men as the perpetrators of a brutal murder in his section. Again the oak tree

figures as gibber These three stories may be but differ has three stories may be but differ-ent versions of the same affair, and per-haps no one of them is absolutely correct in detail. It is safe to assume, however, that among the three the true story of the first hanging is found. It is noticeable that the hanging had robbery for its immediate cause and not murder. Not more than one man was ever afterward lynched

in Hangtown, and he for a killing.

Thus, then, came into being the name of Hangtown," not through the fact that 'Hangtown,' not through the fact that lynchings were common, but from one and only one hanging. The nickrame "stuck," and the result is that many people have a false impression of the character of the old camp. There are as many towns in the East and South that are fully as deserving of the title as was the fully as deserving of the title as was the little Western village. But Eastern and Southern tongues are not as apt to coin nicknames as were the laconic and bluntspeaking "men of '49."

The corner of Main and Coloma Street

is now, as it was then, the centre of the town, and business houses at each of its four angles deprive it of any suggestion of what happened there one day, a half century ago. The white oak is only a memory, as a big brick block has for years stood over its stump. But down at the rear of the stores the waters of a little mountain creek ripple over the rocks in its bed. On its north bank, they say, at a spot which would be in full view from the Coloma Street bridge if a news-paper office had not been erected there some thirty years ago, the lynchers bursome thirty years ago, the lynchers out-ied their victims. There are a few wil-lows growing along there now, and the stream babbles along under them, en-tirely forgetful of the tragedy it witnessed when the town was young. Now and then you see a Chinaman, with old-fashoned rocker, making a half-hearted attempt to coax a few grains of gold from the already exhausted gravels. But usually it is the quiet, rippling stream, ply-ing over boulders, and despening into dark pools under the willows, suggest all that is cool, beautiful, and pure, as only a mountain stream, straight from the melting snow, can. Yet they stil call "Hangtown Creek."-Los Angeles

ANCIENT FOOD TESTERS. Mankind's Debt to the Heroes of the "Grub Age."

"Of all great mysteries in this world, remarked the Hungry Man, as he gave one of the most fascinating. We mod-ern folks who enjoy the benefits of other people's experience and discoveries, seldom give to this fact a thought, but ertheless the fact remains. Let me fllus trate. There is our good friend the mush-room, for instance, and likewise our arch enemy, the toadstool. They are so like each other in appearance that even to this day luckless mortals occasionally eat the wrong one and join the ranks of the tondstool eaters of the past. Before folks learned to distinguish the difference, therefore, what a lot of calamities must have been brought about through the unfortunate resemblance and man's equally deplorable ignorance. To the Stone Age the Age of Reptiles and the other prehis-toric periods, there should be added still another, the Grub Age.

"It strikes me that the Grub Age, that indefinite epoch when the human race was making the acquaintance of its daily fare, must have been a very trying, not to say painful portion of the world's history. We are told in tradition that the ancients very generally were hardy races. They needed to be, for, compared with the dis-covery and conquest of new food-things to eat which you and I of the present day regard as common—the discovery and conquest of strange lands was mere child's play. Show me, for example, a portrait of the first man who ate an oyster-soft and wabbly-and I'll show you the portrait of a brave and dauntless hero, willing to sacrifice his all for the benefit of the family bill of fare. In those days, every man was a sort of government experiment station. Of course I have no positive information, but I should man by his fellow beings was a sentence to serve as food tester to the village. It would be worse than hanging, a great sight, because of the terrible uncertainty attached to the job. With everybody testing, no man's life would be safe, but and everything which was brought before him, the danger would be minimized to all except the infortunate tester. This, I have no doubt was practiced among the very ancient, e to how happened it that patriarchs of old were so man playing & W ... a bridge whist at the age

"No do the doctrine of expansio was then applied to eatables. The man who believed in supplementing the family fare with something new and novel was regarded as dangerous to the health of the community and old men loudly cried out for the days of the thirteen original foods. Progressive ideas, however, pre-valled then as now, and that is why we of today eat soft-shelled crabs, lobsters frogs' legs, calves' brains, snails, egga terrapin, clams, potatoes, and other delightful dainties with impunity. But, as you eat, consider the pains, the nerve the fortitude which your ancestors had to display in order to establish the repu-tation for honesty of the stuff which you enjoy. You who like apple fritters, ho ould you like to have been the man who first overcame the prejudice against the apple? If I remember rightly the apple was the fruit which helped to destroy the peace of the Garden of Eden. How about notatoes? What was the prehistoric person poking at when he lit upon them? Is it in the realm of possibility that he had the nerve to eat one of the dirty brown things? I think not. And it's the same with turnips, asparagus, beets, cel-ery, and so on to infinity. May blessings be upon the heads of their discoverers and early patrons. Beside them the occupants of the Hall of Fame, mere historical personages, fade away into the deep glo of insignificant obscurity. Trot out the benefactor who first pickled pigs' feet! Oh, show me the martyr who first boomed sauerkraut! "It is to the residents of the ancient

seacoasts, however, that we should salaam the lowest. To them belongs the greatest credit, for the conquest of the vegetable is as nothing when compared with the conquest of the shellfish. What was it about the crab's physical appearance that suggested he was good to eat? How many prehistoric people broke their teeth on the shell of his relative, the lobster, before learning that the inside alone was eligible for internal use? And, anyway, what do you suppose the man who first boiled a lobster said when he saw the ugly beast turning red? For all we know, however, the very ancients may have had even worse times than we give

MASCOTS OF THE SAILOR

Animals and Birds Supposed to Bring Luck to Ships.

Alligators, Monkeys, Parrots, Goats, and Dogs Petted While at Sen Superstitions Prevailing on Board Vessels-A Necessary Part of Crew.

If sailors are afflicted with superstiions they are also fond of mascots. Near-y every ship which comes to this port has a dog or a cat or a goat or an alliga-tor or a cooster, or something eise which the sailors took to for protection against the fury of the elements and the wiles of the evil one. It is astonishing how these mascots are careu for. In nearly every instance they are fed from the captain's table, and whenever they are sick, every pan on board exerts himself to find so remedy for the allment, and they never satisfied until a cure is effected.

Mascots are as old as the hills with the sallorman. He has had them ever since e has beleived in the story about rats leaving a sinking vessel, or that other superstition about leaving port Friday meaning certain death. It is useless to argue that the mere presence of a goat will cause a deviation of a hurricane from its course, or that the meow of a cat will cause a bullet to fall before its force is spent. It is all a useless and thankless job to try to argue anything with a sailor when once he has made up his mind to a thing, and he has made up his mind that mascots are very necessary parts of a ship's crew, and there is an nd of it.

The mascot of the steamship Montesuma is an alligator, a cunning fellow, about two and one-half feet long. He was brought aboard when he was as small as orought aboard when he was as small as a lizard. They got him down at Quarentine, and to his presence is attributed all the good luck which has followed the ship since. The men will tell you with a grave face that the reason they have had no trouble with the muleteers they carry regularly to South Africa is due to that allignator. They will tell sequence that alligator. They will tell you seriously that the reason they have never had disease or shipwreck or any of those mis-haps is because the alligator has hoo-dooed the weather man and the microbe.

dooed the weather man and the microbe. They believe it, and they steadfastedly refuse to wean themselves from the idea. They look after that reptile as though he were a King's son. They give him a place in the bathtub, and they spend half a day chasing flies and other insects, to be sure he gets a good dinner. be sure he gets a good dinner. When rations are short they will cheerfully divide with their four-web-footed friend, who has a face like a griffin on the top of a public building, and a mouth like the Isthmus of Panama.

Of course, the alligator knows and understands. When they are feedling him.

derstands. When they are feeding him he smiles over about three feet of mouth, and shows his teeth, and they imagine he is pleased, and give him more. They say he crawls to the feet of the men who give him the most to sat and therefore there. him the most to eat, and therefore there is a generous rivairy to see who will get his favor. Unless something happens to put a stop to this practice that alligator may die of indigestion.

The mascot on the steamship Me

is a "billy" goat. The appearance of that goat would knock a holiday out of the cilendar, or postpone Sunday or accom-plish almost any other belnous design. He has been all around the world and back again, and he is still going and traveling all the time as one of the cubin passengers. He goes where he ple passengers. He goes where he pleases, and when he pleases, and there is not a soul to say him nay. The man who would be so brave as to propose any limitation to the license or liberty of that gost would be uncermoniously pitched over-board without benefit of clergy. The age of the goat no living man will undertake to prophesy. He was there years and years ago, and he is there yet. The flight years ago, and he do have passed him by. His beard has about the same num-ber of hairs in it now as it had ten years ago, and the butting capacity has been trengthened instead of decreased

The way to make friends with the captain and the crew, and everybody else inany way connected with the Megnon, is to first make friends with that goat, and every man who goes aboard with his any way connected with the Me pockets full of tin cans and brown paper d things of that kind is held in grateful remembrance by the men on the ship. Every morning "Billy's" hide is carefully soaked and every evening his bed is made with the same degree of care as if the owner of the boat were going to use the bunk. There are all sorts of stories about this goat. They say he scented a hurricane once and warred the officers by run ning around like mad and bellowing as if he were mortally wounded. At first they did not know what to make of it, but in the clouds, and knew the goat had a premonitory warning. This accidental gay-ety fixed for life one goat.

The mascot on the steamship Ashanti, the British ship which went to sea the other day, is a common cur dog. There is nothing of high degree about him. He looks as common and unattractive as any deg on any street in the world, but won-derful things are on the books of the ship to his credit. They say he has saved two or three lives, has kept the pantry clear of rats and mice, guards the vessel when she is in port, and knows the voice of every man of the crew. He was born somewhere in England, and they found

of every man of the crew. He was born somewhere in England, and they found him aboard after they had saired and adopted him, and since then he has been perfectly happy, and well he should be, for he has been as carefully looked after and as tenderly treated as any dog of a millionaire. He has a buffalo robe on which to sleep; he is clothed in scarlet and fine raiment in winter to keep his body from the cold air and the sea, and when one of the wharf rats strikes him that boy must be fleet of foot if he gets away without a chastisement.

Some of the fruit ships have monkeys and parrots as their guardian angels. When Jack is at sea he has time to teach them tricks, and he never overlooks a chance to have his mascot learn everything there is to be learned, so he can make a show when he gets to port. Sometimes, down on the levee, there are rare performances. The crews of the several ships fraternize, and they bring their mascots along and brag on what they can do, and there is a grand competitive drill with the interested owners and spectators as judges. All these trials show how hard the men work to win the approval of the other sailors, and they demonstrate what can be done with the lowest order of animals by patience and intelligence.—New Orleans Times Democrat.

WANTS HIS SALARY.

Civil War Captain, Never Discharged, Demands \$22,264.

Among the residents of South Dukota s a veteran of the civil war who enjoys the unique distinction of having his name still carried on the rolls of the War Department as a captain in the volunteer army of the Uni of this Uncle Sam will be called upon to of this Chicle Sam will be called upon to pay him back salary aggregating 12,254. The old veteran is Captain Lockwood, and his home is at Redfield. He was commissioned a captain of volunteers in 1885. The Government, at the close of the war, notified him that he could be discharged at any time upon properly identifying himself. By some oversight he was never discharged.

at any time upon properly identifying himself. By some oversight he was never discharged.

He has not thought of the matter for about thirty years, until the other day, when he came to the conclusion that if he had never been discharged from the army he was entitled to his sainry as captain for the intervening years. His captain is saiary was 852 per month. It is thirty-six years since he drew his has month's pay, and if the courts or War Department decide that he has legally been a captain all this time he will draw from the Treasury of the United States the neat sum of \$22.54. He has engaged the services of an attorney, who will prosecute the claim for him before the proper authorities—Cincinnati Enquirer.